You

In spite of His rebukes, what doctrines concerning God did the Pharisees and Sadducees teach that Jesus would have affirmed were correct?

Gemini 3.1 Pro Extended

While Jesus frequently rebuked the religious leaders of His day for hypocrisy, legalism, and a lack of mercy, He did not dispute their most fundamental theological beliefs. Because Jesus, the Pharisees, and the Sadducees were all rooted in First-Century Second Temple Judaism, they shared a bedrock of foundational doctrines concerning the identity and nature of God.

Here are the core doctrines concerning God that all three would have universally affirmed:

Core Doctrines Shared by All Three

- **Strict Monotheism (The *Shema*):** The absolute center of Jewish theology was Deuteronomy 6:4: *"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."* Jesus and the religious leaders entirely agreed that there was only one true God. When a scribe (often associated with the Pharisees) asked Jesus what the greatest commandment was, Jesus recited the *Shema*, and the scribe enthusiastically agreed (Mark 12:28–32).
- **God as the Supreme Creator:** They all taught that Yahweh was the uncreated Creator of the heavens and the earth, who spoke the universe into existence and sustains it.
- **The God of the Covenant:** Jesus and the religious leaders worshipped the specific God of history—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They agreed that God had made a unique covenant with the nation of Israel, rescued them from Egypt, and promised to dwell among them.
- **God as the Ultimate Judge and Lawgiver:** Both sects taught that God gave the Torah (the Law) to Moses at Mount Sinai and that God requires righteousness, justice, and obedience from His people. While Jesus heavily critiqued *how* the Pharisees interpreted the Law and *how* the Sadducees applied it, He never disputed that the Law itself was divinely given by God.

Doctrines Jesus Shared Specifically with the Pharisees

The Sadducees were a wealthy, priestly class who accepted only the written Torah (the first five books of the Old Testament) as authoritative. Because of this, they rejected several doctrines that the Pharisees embraced. On these dividing issues, Jesus consistently sided with the **Pharisees**:

Doctrine Concerning God	The Pharisaic View (Affirmed by Jesus)	The Sadducean View (Rebuked by Jesus)
God's Power of Resurrection	God has the power and intent to raise the dead at the end of the age to face ultimate judgment.	There is no resurrection of the dead; the soul perishes with the body.
God's Heavenly Host	God created and rules over a spiritual realm populated by angels and demons.	Angels and spirits do not exist.
God's Active Providence	God is actively involved in daily life. Divine sovereignty and human free will work together.	God is largely distant from daily human affairs; humans have total free will and are entirely responsible for their own prosperity or suffering.

When the Sadducees attempted to trap Jesus with a riddle about the resurrection, Jesus sharply rebuked them for their theology, telling them, *"You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God"* (Matthew 22:29). In defending the resurrection, Jesus actively affirmed the Pharisaic understanding of God's power over death.

Ultimately, Jesus' conflicts with the religious leaders were rarely about **who** God was in a factual sense. Instead, the conflicts centered on God's **character**—specifically that God desires mercy over sacrifice—and Jesus' own identity and authority as the Son of God.